

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

Information Letter

FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

No. 138

Washington, D. C.

November 14, 1925

CONTENTS

	Page		Page
Cooperation with food inspectors pays	101	Cancellation of commodity rates on tin cans and canned foods proposed	103
Committee on seed contract revision meets with seedsmen	102	More Canned Foods Week radio talks	104
Novel Canned Foods Week publicity	103	Car loadings	104
Cooperative industrial research	103		

Cooperation With Food Inspectors Pays

The canning industry has always favored pure-food legislation and the enforcement of reasonable food and sanitary regulations. This Association, in fact, took a very active interest in the passage of the Federal Food and Drugs Act, which is the basis also for most of the state laws governing foods and drugs.

During the nineteen years that the federal law has been in effect, the Bureau of Chemistry has had to work out a system of inspection which would enable it to accomplish a great deal with a comparatively small force of inspectors. It secured the cooperation of most of the state food departments, and nearly every such department has one or more of its officials commissioned by the Secretary of the U. S. Department of Agriculture to act as a federal agent in the enforcement of the law.

Because of the enormous amount of work and expense involved, the Bureau of Chemistry cannot afford, with its limited funds and personnel, to examine samples of all kinds and brands of food periodically. It has to concentrate its efforts where attention appears to be most needed, so that food inspectors who collect samples for examination supplement this work by inspection of food manufacturing and distributing establishments. They may find in certain manufacturing establishments conditions which they believe make food products packed there illegal, such as improper cleaning or sorting of raw materials, slack filling or incorrect labelling. They will then be likely to concentrate their attention on the products of such plants. It should be clearly understood that inspection evidence does not always furnish the basis for collecting samples, nor for legal action, but such inspection forms an important guide to inspectors in their work.

In view of the importance of these inspectors' visits from the canner's viewpoint, the canner should give instructions to

his superintendent or foreman to notify him of their presence. Even though it is customary for inspectors to apply at the office before inspecting a cannery, they are not obliged to do this. It is certainly to the canner's best interest to extend to them every facility in their inspection work and the canner should ask the inspector to criticise anything about the plant that he thinks is open to criticism.

The canner should encourage the inspector to give him all the constructive help and suggestions he can. While the inspector may not be able to give the canner official rulings or answer all inquiries, should any questions arise as a result of the conference the canner may send them to the Association, which will be glad to submit them to the Bureau of Chemistry for an official opinion.

If an inspector is discourteously treated while inspecting a plant, the canner is placed at a great disadvantage. Such treatment can hardly fail to arouse suspicion, and as inspectors are only human their attitude cannot but be affected by such treatment. If the inspector is simply ignored, the canner is losing a valuable opportunity. It is the policy of the Bureau of Chemistry to help food manufacturers comply with the law, but if the law and rulings of the Department are violated after due notice has been given, the Bureau has no alternative but to take action against the manufacturer or his products.

While the Association is always ready to assist its members as far as it can when they are in trouble with the food authorities, canners can save themselves a great deal by keeping out of trouble instead of trying to get out of trouble after some of their goods have been seized.

It pays canners to keep posted on the essential requirements of the food law, and if there is any question at any time on which you want information, do not hesitate to write to the Association at once.

Committee on Seed Contract Revision Meets with Seedsmen

The National Canners Association committee on seed contract revision, of which Mr. L. Meulendyke of Rochester is chairman, met with the conference committee of the American Seed Trade Association, at the National Canners Association headquarters on November 7.

The Canners' committee expressed their opinion in regard to the one-sidedness of the present usual form of seed contract, and stated their belief that trade relations would be improved

if a fair and equitable contract could be worked out which would make provision for

1. Arbitration in case of disagreement as to whether contract terms had been fulfilled, or in case of disagreement over pro-rata deliveries.
2. Opportunity to approve invoice before payment for seed.
3. Guarantee by seller of reasonable minimum germination.
4. Guarantee or proper assumption of responsibility by the seller with respect to trueness of seed to variety and type.

The tone of the whole meeting was amicable, and the discussions, while very frank, were equally friendly.

No attempt was made to come to a formal agreement at this conference, but it was felt by both canners and seedsmen that each party should devote thought to working out of a contract which might be mutually satisfactory and that when some tentative form has been worked out another conference should be held.

Novel Canned Foods Week Publicity

The National Refining Company, which makes use of epigrams on slates at its filling stations and other good points in several of the midwestern cities, has included an announcement of Canned Foods Week in connection with one of its epigrams that will appear during the period November 9 to 21. It is stated that this announcement will appear in Dubuque and Sioux City, Iowa; Indianapolis Ind.; Kalamazoo, Mich.; Kansas City and St. Louis, Mo.; Memphis, Tenn.; Mankato, Minn.; Omaha, Neb.; Oklahoma City, Okla.; Peoria and Springfield, Ill.

Cooperative Industrial Research

The Chamber of Commerce of the United States has issued a 40-page report on the research work of trade associations, covering the activities of eighty-one organizations. The work of four associations, among them the National Canners Association, is discussed in some detail.

Cancellation of Commodity Rates on Tin Cans and Canned Foods Proposed

The Central Freight Association, the Illinois Freight Association and the Western Trunk Line Committee have jointly announced their purpose to cancel the commodity rates on tin cans

and canned foods as described below, leaving only the class rates in effect.

Tin cans.—To cancel all commodity rates on tin cans, drums, pails, etc., between points in Central Freight Association, Illinois Freight Association and Western Trunk Line Committee territories on or east of the Mississippi River.

Canned goods.—To cancel all commodity rates on all canned goods (except canned meats) between points within Illinois Freight Association territory; within Central Freight Association territory; between these territories; from points in Wisconsin and the upper peninsular of Michigan to Illinois Freight Association territory and to points in Wisconsin. This will mean the cancellation of commodity rates from all Illinois canning points to Chicago, St. Louis, etc., and from all Wisconsin points to Milwaukee, Chicago and other points in Illinois, also St. Louis.

The carriers also propose to cancel commodity rates on fibreboard boxes between points in Illinois Freight Association territory including stations in Wisconsin, Milwaukee and south and to rate these boxes on the basis of class "C" by exceptions to the classification.

More Canned Foods Week Radio Talks

Last week's Information Letter gave a list of radio addresses scheduled in connection with Canned Foods Week. Since the issuance of the Letter the following additional talks have been reported:

Denver, Colo.—Station KOA, General Electric Co., Nov. 10 and 17, 4 P.M.
Kansas City, Mo.—Station WDAF, Kansas City Star, Nov. 17, 6.00 P.M.

Lafayette, Ind.—Station WBAA, Nov. 6 and 10.
Portland, Me.—Station MCHS, Nov. 9, 7.30 P.M.; Nov. 10, 7.15 P.M.; Nov. 11, 7.50 P.M.; Nov. 12 and 13, 7.15 P.M.; Nov. 14, 9.30 P.M.; Nov. 16, 10.50 P.M.

St. Louis, Mo.—Station KSD, Nov. 13, 8 P.M.

Washington, D. C.—Station WRC, Nov. 21, between 8.00 and 9.00 P.M.

Car Loadings

For the week ending October 31 loadings of revenue freight totaled 1,091,273 cars, a decrease of 30,186 from the preceding week, but an increase of 17,899 cars over the corresponding week of 1924. This is the fifteenth week of the present year that car loadings have been above the million mark.